

WYCOMBE WIN BY PENALTY GOAL

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE Wanderers gave their brand new all-blue strip a muddy baptism on a quagmire of a pitch in their Isthmian League game against Corinthian-Casuals. Both sides found ball control extremely difficult on the slippery surface and it was only from a penalty that Wycombe were able to score.

Wycombe Wanderers: Maskell; Beck, Eyres; Baker, Rundle, Gale; Worley, Samuels, Bates, Horseman, Merrick.

Corinthian Casuals: James; Durham, Milton; Shalet, Joy, Wilson; Hunt, Hill, Phillips, Richardson, Binkney.

Referee: J H Cope (London).

A spectacular overhead kick by Samuels almost beat the Casuals goalkeeper, James, in an early Wycombe attack but there was a great deal of mis-kicking in the mud.

Centre-forward Phillips looked the Casuals danger man, forging through in menacing fashion on several occasions, but the home backs covered well.

But one long-range ground shot by left-back Milton brought Maskell to his knees for a fine save and then Phillips extended him again with a difficult rising shot.

The clever Casuals' forwards, however, were still doing rather more of the attacking. Wycombe were inclined to keep the ball too much in the middle and the Casuals' backs had little difficulty in holding them.

Wycombe attacked more confidently towards the end of the first half but their finishing lacked punch and only Horseman looked like piercing

the powerful Casuals' defence.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 0, Corinthian Casuals 0.

Wycombe had a lucky escape in the first few minutes of the second half when Beck stopped a shot from Hunt on the goal line with the goalkeeper out of position.

The Wanderers hit back at top pace but there was still no punch in their finishing and few shots got through to James, to the increasing exasperation of the home crowd.

Spurred by the taunts Wycombe had the Casuals' goal under fierce pressure for several long periods without success until the 77th minute when centre half Joy handled in the area and BATES scored from the penalty to put Wycombe ahead.

Only a brilliant save by Maskell preserved the lead for Wycombe a few minutes afterwards when right-back Durham ran through to smack in a tremendous shot on the run.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE	1
CORINTHIAN-CAS. ...	0

BATES EARNS THE POINTS

Wycombe 1 Cor. Casuals 0

WYCOMBE had to rely on a penalty 13 minutes from the end for their Isthmian League points against a talented Casuals side.

It was a game of frustration for both sides. Playing for the first time in their near all-blue strip, Wycombe attacked with enthusiasm but achieved little. Only Horseman looked like outwitting a solid defence marshalled by centre half Joy.

It was stalemate for much of the game with the defences dominating.

Wycombe had several lucky escapes. Twice right back Beck saved them with timely interceptions on the goalline. And James saved the Casuals once by hurling himself at the feet of Bates.

The deadlock of defensive supremacy was broken in the 77th minute when Joy handled in the area and Bates scored from the spot.